



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## FACT SHEET

### **MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES CITY OF SAN DIEGO OFFICIALLY “GOES GREEN” IN PURCHASING**

#### ***NEW PROGRAM BEGINS TODAY REQUIRING ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS TO USE ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR ALL PURCHASES***

*New Cost-saving Program Will Strengthen San Diego’s Commitment to the Environment*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced the start of the City’s new Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program or “EP3.” The program requires City departments to use environmental criteria along with the usual price and performance criteria when purchasing products and services. The program, developed by the Environmental Services Department in conjunction with the Purchasing and Contracting Department, means that every City department will be looking for ways to purchase “green.” The City already purchases many environmentally preferable products, resulting in savings of millions of dollars annually.

#### **EP<sup>3</sup> CRITERIA**

A dozen basic Environmentally Preferable characteristics will be used to evaluate products and services. The goal is to purchase products with as many characteristics as possible. The 12 characteristics are:

- Alternative Energy Sources
- Bio-based
- Biodegradable
- Compostable
- High Recycled Content
- Low Toxicity
- Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)
- Pollution Reduction
- Recyclable
- Repairable
- Resource Efficient (water conserving and/or energy efficient)
- Reusable

### **EP<sup>3</sup> IMPLEMENTATION**

The Environmental Services and Purchasing and Contracting Departments are implementing the program City-wide by:

- developing and distributing environmentally preferable products listings and resources
- offering information and training aids
- updating all City bid documents to encourage the use of recycled and environmentally preferable products
- providing annual reports to the Mayor on the status of EP<sup>3</sup> implementation
- targeting major City purchasers for the greatest impact (e.g. Water Department and General Services)

“Purchasing environmentally preferable products is important to my commitment to invest in the future of San Diego and to help fight global warming and reduce waste. This program will institutionalize the purchase of products that are good for the environment as well as cost-effective.”

-- Mayor Jerry Sanders

### **EXAMPLES OF SAVINGS FROM CURRENT EP<sup>3</sup> PURCHASES AND PRACTICES**

The City of San Diego already purchases many environmentally preferable products that have resulted in substantial cost savings. For example:

- The City saves \$3.5 million annually in reduced energy consumption and costs through energy retrofits and installation of solar panels at City facilities.
- The City saves \$126,000 annually by using recapped tires on certain City vehicles.
- The City saves \$63,000 annually by using recycled copy paper and \$40,000 annually by using recycled toner cartridges.
- The City Streets Division uses recycled crumb rubber from tires when it slurry seals City streets.
  - Estimated costs savings over the 10-year life of the rubberized slurry seal vs. conventional slurry seal equals almost \$850,000.
  - The slurry seal makes the pavement a better quality and diverts 400 tires from landfill disposal for every mile of pavement treated.

### **EXAMPLES OF EP<sup>3</sup> PRODUCTS**

- Solar-powered street lights
- Street and traffic-control material
- Re-processed paint
- Retread tires
- Automotive products
- Re-refined oil

### **BENEFITS OF THE EP<sup>3</sup> PROGRAM**

The purchase of environmentally preferable products will:

- help continue the City's positive environmental practices;
- allow for cost savings and operating efficiencies;
- contribute to community sustainability including reducing our contribution to greenhouse gas emissions;
- institutionalize efforts to purchase products which are less toxic, save energy, have lower life-cycle costs, are less wasteful and have a high percentage of recycled content;
- contribute to the market development of environmentally preferable products by leveraging the City's large purchasing power; and
- create a mechanism to track city-wide environmentally preferable purchases.